

CEI PILOT PROJECT TO PROMOTE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION THROUGH CENTERS AND GROUPS OF SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE IN WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES

**Presentation by
Giorgio Rosso Cicogna
Special Advisor to CEI Secretary General**

**Steering Platform on Research for Western Balkan Countries
Budva, 5-6 June, 2013**

OBJECTIVES OF THIS PILOT PROJECT

- CEI intends to contribute to the initial implementation of a **comprehensive strategy** fostering regional cooperation on Research and Innovation, in cooperation with EC, RCC, World Bank and other stakeholders
- Many years of experience with the CEI S&T Network will contribute to enhance capabilities of **centres of excellence** and other **advanced research groups** in the region (will get 85% of resources)
- A three year collaborative research project, building on the **strengths** of the CEI S&T Network, can start **immediately**, i.e. as soon as funded: **limited financial resources** (€15,5 mil.) if compared with the ambitious target of World Bank strategy (€200 mil. envisaged)
- This pilot project will disseminate scientific knowledge, transfer technology know-how and promote innovation, while testing on the field most actions of the World Bank strategy.

➤ Centres which are **international by statute**:

- ICTP International Centre for Theoretical Physics (UNESCO/IAEA)
- ICGEB International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (intergovernmental organization of the UN family)

➤ Centres which are **international by vocation**:

- Elettra Synchrotron Lab and Fermi Free Electron Laser Lab
- SISSA International School of Advanced Scientific Studies
- OGS Institute for Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics
- AREA Science Park

For this pilot project these Centres of global excellence have identified ten scientific programmes with a strong multidisciplinary component. Training by AREA will promote technology transfer / innovation related to these programmes. Overall objective is complementary to that of WB. (Promoting EDIF)

- Synchrotron radiation and free electron laser to develop **innovative materials**, including new technologies for conservation of cultural heritage; **molecular and structural biology** tools including microscopy and 3D analysis (Elettra and Fermi)
- **Environment protection** modelling and **climate change** (ICTP+OGS)
- **Condensed matter** physics and advanced materials (ICTP+SISSA)
- **Biotechnology** for food and energy (ICGEB)
- **Regenerative medicine** with specific reference to cardiovascular and neurodegenerative disorders (ICGEB+SISSA)
- **Cognitive neurosciences; Computational biology; Applied mathematics** (SISSA)
- **Secure energy** (OGS)
- Cross-sectoral support: promotion of technology transfer and coaching of innovative start-ups (AREA)

The CEI Pilot Project will provide support through several measures, also stimulating regional collaborative joint initiatives, aiming at a more widespread **participation to Horizon 2020**.

- 50 fellowships to be spent in Trieste (30 months each)
- 200 scholarships (30 months each) and 35 grants for group leaders to be spent in own countries
- Support for scientific travel, organisation of scientific events, subscription to literature, consumables, software
- Support for training and coordination activities by Centres of the CEI Network, including funding for collaborative joint research projects (also in view of Horizon 2020)
- Support for e-learning, e-laboratory, tutoring, networking, etc.
- Access to advanced instrumentation and lab facilities

- The CEI Pilot Project focuses on excellence in research and on best practices in transfer of know how, disseminating knowledge about different roles, in joint efforts, for research, development and innovation
- In WB Countries there is a need for specific measures in order to support the itinerary from research to technology transfer and development, finalized to innovation
- To reach this objective, the Project envisages a “tailor-made” advanced training by AREA, which has a specific experience in this field and will train 20 fellows in technology transfer related to the ten programmes above, also ensuring a post-course tutoring and monitoring

- Larger number of collaborative projects and co-publications with CEI S&T Network, also in high impact journals and by young researchers
- Larger number of trained young researchers with promising careers, turning the trend from brain drain into brain gain
- Targeted transfer of technology in larger number of innovative applications to industrial production
- Broader participation to Horizon 2020 project from scientific communities in WB Countries and efficient use of advanced instrumentation
- Better public/political awareness about the advantages of research programmes, also in regional dimension/cooperation

- Building overall consensus and support among stakeholders by promoting this Pilot Project at various institutional levels in the framework of an appropriate fundraising
- Ensuring full support by all CEI levels: National Coordinators, Focal Points for Science and Technology, competent Ministries (Meeting of CEI Ministers for Science and Technology already scheduled in October 2013, like every year)
- Meeting in Trieste (Mid July) of CEI S&T Focal Points, other government officials, EC / RCC representatives and prominent scientists from WB Countries, with CEI centres of excellence of CEI S&T Network
- Creating a **Steering Committee** with representatives of EC (DG Research and DG Enlargement), RCC, World Bank, WBC INCO-Net, together with representatives of CEI Member States
- Similar (“cloned”) pilot project for CEI member countries pertaining to the Danube Macro-region, to cover all CEI Member States

**Arrivederci with CEI Focal Points for S&T in Trieste, July 9-10
(tentatively)**

Your suggestions and support are most welcome!

WB Countries must include Science and Technology as a priority in their respective national IPA 2 programmes, as a necessary precondition.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

**Giorgio Rosso Cicogna
Special Advisor to CEI Secretary General**

**www.cei.int
asg@cei.int**